

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-13 are pending.

1. (currently amended) A method ~~for communication over a network~~ that ~~allows for the authentication of individuals and control of information~~ comprising:

registering ~~with a discovery machine~~ a first user that maintains a first client machine and a second user that maintains a second client machine with a discovery machine, ~~wherein said first user maintains a first client machine and said second user maintains a second client machine, wherein said first client machine, said second client machine and said discovery machine are coupled to a network;~~

determining by said discovery machine whether said first user will accept a communication from said second user;

when said first user will accept said communication, causing a direct link to be established between said first client machine and said second client machine to deliver said communication in which said direct link:

when established is configured such that said communication is not delivered through said discovery machine; and

is not established when said first user will not accept said communication.

~~initiating a communication from said second user via said second client machine to said first user via said first client machine through said discovery machine;~~

~~the discovery machine determining that said first user will accept said communication;~~

~~the discovery machine establishing a direct link between said first client machine and said second client machine; and~~

~~delivering said communication over said direct link;~~

~~wherein said direct link is not established if said first user does not accept said communication.~~

2. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said direct link is caused to be closed ~~closes~~ after said communication is delivered.

3. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein if said first user is not available to receive said communication, said communication is stored by said discovery machine until said first user becomes available.

4. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, ~~further comprising the step of said second user initiating a new communication to said first user by establishing~~ wherein a new direct link is caused to be established between said second client machine ~~user~~ and said first client machine to communicate a new communication.

5. **(original)** The method as recited in claim 4, wherein a thread of related previous communications is prefixed to said new communication.
6. **(original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of said first user and said second user maintains a plurality of contact information.
7. **(original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein an individual entry in said plurality of contact information is automatically updated when an associated user of said individual entry updates a corresponding entry locally at a client machine of said associated user.
8. **(original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a third user can initiate a new communication to at least one of said first and said second user via a web page interface coupled to said discovery machine.
9. **(original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a third user can initiate a new communication to at least one of said first and second user through a simple mail transfer protocol via said discovery machine.
10. **(original)** The method as recited in claim 9, wherein at least one of said first user and second user can selectively block said new communication.
11. **(original)** The method as recited in claim 9, wherein a one directional communication link is sent to said third user when at least one of said first and

said second user replies to said new communication wherein said one-directional communication link allows said third user to send a future communication directly to said first or second user.

12. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein determining that said first user will accept said communication includes further ~~comprises the step of~~ storing notification of said communication if said first user is unavailable.

13. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said discovery machine is a central server.

Claim 14-32 (cancelled).

33. (new) One or more computer readable media comprising instructions that are executable on a discovery machine to:

register a first user that maintains a first client machine and a second user that maintains a second client machine;

determine whether said first user will accept a communication from said second user; and

when said first user will accept said communication, cause a direct link to be established between said first client machine and said second client machine to deliver said communication in which said direct link:

when established is configured such that said communication is not delivered through said discovery machine; and

is not established when said first user will not accept said communication.

34. (new) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 33, wherein said direct link is caused to be closed after said communication is delivered.

35. (new) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 33, wherein the instruction are executable such that if said first user is not available to receive said communication, said communication is stored by said discovery machine until said first user becomes available.

36. (new) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 33, wherein the instruction are executable such that a new direct link is caused to be established between said second client machine and said first client machine to communicate a new communication.

37. (new) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 36, wherein the instruction are executable such that a thread of related previous communications is prefixed to said new communication.

38. (new) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 33, wherein at least one of said first user and said second user maintains a plurality of contact information.

39. (new) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 33, wherein the instructions are executable such that an individual entry in said plurality of contact information is automatically updated when an associated user of said individual entry updates a corresponding entry locally at a client machine of said associated user.

40. (new) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 33, wherein the instructions are executable such that a third user can initiate a new communication to at least one of said first and said second user via a web page interface coupled to said discovery machine.

41. (new) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 33, wherein the instructions are executable such that a third user can initiate a new communication to at least one of said first and second user through a simple mail transfer protocol via said discovery machine.

42. (new) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 41, wherein at least one of said first user and second user can selectively block said new communication.

43. (new) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 41, wherein the instruction are executable such that a one-directional communication link is sent to said third user when at least one of said first and said second user replies to said new communication wherein said one-directional communication link allows said third user to send a future communication directly to said first or second user.

44. (new) One or more servers comprising a discovery machine configured to:
register a first user that maintains a first client machine and a second user that maintains a second client machine;

determine whether said first user will accept a communication from said second user; and

when said first user will accept said communication, cause a direct link to be established between said first client machine and said second client machine to deliver said communication in which said direct link:

when established is configured such that said communication is not delivered through said discovery machine; and

is not established when said first user will not accept said communication.

45. (new) One or more servers as recited in claim 44, wherein said direct link is caused to be closed after said communication is delivered.

- 46. (new)** One or more servers as recited in claim 44, wherein if said first user is not available to receive said communication, said communication is stored by said discovery machine until said first user becomes available.
- 47. (new)** One or more servers as recited in claim 44, wherein a new direct link is caused to be established between said second client machine and said first client machine to communicate a new communication.
- 48. (new)** One or more servers as recited in claim 47, wherein a thread of related previous communications is prefixed to said new communication.
- 49. (new)** One or more servers as recited in claim 44, wherein at least one of said first user and said second user maintains a plurality of contact information.
- 50. (new)** One or more servers as recited in claim 49, wherein an individual entry in said plurality of contact information is automatically updated when an associated user of said individual entry updates a corresponding entry locally at a client machine of said associated user.
- 51. (new)** One or more servers as recited in claim 44, wherein a third user can initiate a new communication to at least one of said first and said second user via a web page interface coupled to said discovery machine.

52. (new) One or more servers as recited in claim 51, wherein a third user can initiate a new communication to at least one of said first and second user through a simple mail transfer protocol via said discovery machine.

53. (new) One or more servers as recited in claim 51, wherein at least one of said first user and second user can selectively block said new communication.

54. (new) One or more servers as recited in claim 53, wherein a directional communication link is sent to said third user when at least one of said first and said second user replies to said new communication wherein said one-directional communication link allows said third user to send a future communication directly to said first or second user.

55. (new) One or more servers as recited in claim 44, wherein the discovery machine is further configured to store notification of said communication if said first user is unavailable.

56. (new) One or more servers as recited in claim 44, wherein the discovery machine is configured as a central server.